

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 L-03 SY-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /039 W

----- 114308

R 190225Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3407

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, US

SUBJ: AMERICAN MISSIONARY CONCERN OVER ROK PRESSURE

1. POL COUNS WAS VISITED APRIL 18 BY PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARY STANTION WILSON AND MRS. LINDA JONES, WIFE OF PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARY. A STUDENT ACTIVIST WAS ARRESTED BY ROK/CIA AGENTS IN MRS. JONES' HOME LAST FALL (SEOUL 7035, OCT, 1973).

2. WILSON SAID THAT UNITED PRESBYTERIAN MISSION IN SEOUL HAS BEEN UNDER INCREASING POLICE PRESSURE IN PAST WEEK. HE SAID THAT INCREASINGLY HIGHER RANKING POLICE OFFICERS HAVE VISITED MISSION'S OFFICES DAILY PUTTING PRESSURE ON LOCAL EMPLOYEES FOR LIST OF ALL PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARIES' NAMES, ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS. POLICE INTEREST CLEARLY RELATED TO STUDENT SITUATION AND TO THOSE MISSIONARIES INVOLVED IN STUDENT AFFAIRS. ACCORDING TO WILSON, POLICE IN LATEST VISIT, THREATENED LOCAL EMPLOYEE WITH ARREST IF HE DID NOT REVEAL NAMES OF THOSE MISSIONARIES MOST INVOLVED IN STUDENT WORK. AS A CONSEQUENCE, LOCAL EMPLOYEE APPARENTLY ADVISED MISSION LEADER, WHO IS AUSTRALIAN, THAT MRS. JONES WOULD BE WISE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. WILSON SAID, TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, KOREAN EMPLOYEE DID NOT GIVE POLICE MRS. JONES NAME. (WE BELIEVE THAT WILSON IS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ON THAT SCORE.)

3. WILSON SAID THAT THE AUSTRALIAN LEADER OF THE MISSION HAS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT MRS. JONES LEAVE BECAUSE HE FEARS THAT THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION'S WORK MIGHT BE THREATENED IF SHE WERE

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ARRESTED FOR HER ACTIVITIES WITH STUDENTS. WILSON WAS QUICK TO

POINT OUT THAT HE DID NOT MEAN THAT MRS. JONES HAD ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, QUITE THE CONTRARY, HER WORK WITH STUDENTS WAS ADMIRABLE. HOWEVER, WILSON SAID IN PRESENT SITUATION, HE DID BELIEVE THAT IT MIGHT BE BEST FOR MRS. JONES TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

4. POL COUNS POINTED OUT THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE COULD GIVE NO SUCH ADVICE TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. THIS WAS AN INDIVIDUAL DECISION. ONE QUESTION MRS. JONES WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS IS WHETHER SHE HAD IN FACT ENGAGED IN ACTIONS WHICH WOULD BRING HER IN VIOLATION OF KOREAN LAW. AS SHE KNEW, FOREIGNERS DO COME UNDER KOREAN LAW.

5. MRS. JONES DID NOT ADDRESS THIS QUESTION DIRECTLY BUT LATER INDICATED THAT SOME STUDENTS SHE KNEW HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND, GIVEN THE VAGUENESS OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 4, SHE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HER ASSOCIATION WITH THEM COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A VIOLATION OF THE MEASURE. HOWEVER, NEITHER MRS. JONES NOR WILSON HAD HARD EVIDENCE THAT SHE IS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY POLICE AGENCIES.

6. AT WILSON'S REQUEST, POL COUNS DESCRIBED THE EMBASSY'S ROLE IN THE EVENT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WAS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF KOREAN LAW I.E., THE EMBASSY ASSISTS IN FINDING A LAWYER, INFORMING THE FAMILY AND ASSURING NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT UNDER KOREAN LAW.

7. COMMENT: PRESBYTERIAN MISSION IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT, GIVEN MRS. JONES' PAST INVOLVEMENT WITH STUDENT ACTIVISTS, HER CONTINUED PRESENCE IN COUNTRY MIGHT PROVE DANGEROUS TO MRS. JONES AND TO THE WORK OF THE MISSION. REV. WILSON'S PURPOSE IN BRINGING HER TO THE EMBASSY SEEMED TO BE PART OF EFFORT BY MORE SENIOR MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERIAN GROUP TO CONVINCE MRS. JONES THAT SHE SHOULD LEAVE THE ROK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. POL COUNS WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT ANY SUCH DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MRS. JONES'.

8. WITHOUT REFERENCE TO MRS. JONES' PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH MOFA QUESTION OF POLICE PRESSURES ON AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, MISSIONARIES, ARRESTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL02499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740091-0322
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740429/aaaaazhn.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN MISSIONARY CONCERN OVER ROK PRESSURE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, US, (WILSON, STANTION), (JONES, LINDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005